

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 5-20 and indicating allowable subject matter in claim 3. The Applicants also thank the Examiner for approving the Drawings submitted September 30, 2003, acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority, and considering the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on June 23, 2004.

Applicants note that on the PTO-1449 form, the Examiner did not initial European Patent No. 0496505 to indicate his consideration of the document. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the document, initial the PTO-1449 form to indicate his consideration of the document, and provide a copy of the PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a multi-type air conditioner. The multi-type air conditioner includes an outdoor unit having a compressor, and a plurality of indoor units. The air conditioner also includes connection pipelines which are connected between the outdoor unit and the indoor units, and foreign matter cutoff devices which are mounted on each of the connection pipelines and prevent foreign matter from entering into the compressor.

In the Office Action of August 24, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuki et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 5,379,606). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection at least for the following reasons.

Katsuki is directed towards an air conditioner having an outdoor unit, indoor units A & B, and connection pipelines connected between the outdoor unit and the indoor units, as shown in Figure 2. Katsuki's air conditioner also includes strainers 25, 26 and 27, disposed within the outdoor unit and the indoor units, as shown in Figure 2 and disclosed in col. 5, lines 44-45.

Applicants' claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "foreign matter cutoff devices mounted on each of the connection pipelines for preventing foreign matters from entering into the compressor of the outdoor unit." Applicants submit that Katsuki fails to disclose or suggest such features. As shown in Figure 2, Katsuki's strainers 25, 26 and 27 are clearly disposed within the outdoor unit and the indoor units, and are therefore not mounted on connection pipelines connected between the outdoor unit and the indoor units, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Katsuki fails to disclose or suggest every recited feature of independent claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. Dependent claims 2-4 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependence on claim 1.

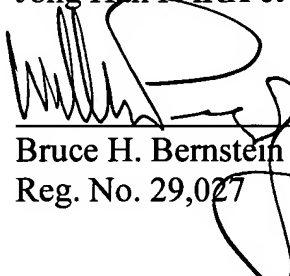
Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jong Han PARK et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191